

Asian currencies mixed against dollar

AFP, Hong Kong

Key Asian currencies ended the week mixed against the dollar following forecasts that the US Federal Reserve may soon end its interest rate-cutting cycle and after an inflation hike in Australia.

JAPANESE YEN: The yen slipped to an eight-week low against the dollar on growing prospects that the current round of cuts in US interest rates may be over in the near future.

It touched the week's low of 104.74 to the dollar before closing daytime trading at 104.70-72 to the dollar on Friday, down from 102.46-49 to the dollar a week earlier.

The Japanese currency rallied to 102.78 to the dollar at one point on Tuesday but it fell back as the greenback was bought on unexpected firmness in Japanese share prices.

Market players were awaiting a policy meeting of the decision-making US Federal Open Market Committee on Tuesday and Wednesday.

"Given the recent stable movement on the global financial markets, receding concerns about the credit crunch and surging commodity prices, there is an emerging view that the Federal Reserve Board may end the rate-cutting cycle after more rate cut," Tokyo Securities chief economist Mitsuru Saito said.

The Fed was widely anticipated to announce a 25-basis-point rate cut, the smallest this year.

Bank of America strategist Tomoko Fujii said in Tokyo that "the currency market is in a wait-and-see mood. The market has gone too far about the possibility that we are approaching the end of the Fed's monetary easing."

Apart from the Fed meeting, the market will focus on a report to be released by the Bank of Japan on Wednesday on the country's economic and price trends, the business daily

Nikkei said on Friday on its Internet edition.

CHINESE YUAN: The yuan closed at 7.0109 to the dollar Friday on the exchange-traded market, compared with Thursday's close of 6.9936, and a closing price of 6.9931 to the dollar the week before.

On the over-the-counter market, it ended at 7.0100 to the dollar against 6.9970 the previous day.

The central bank had set the yuan central parity rate at 6.9949 to the dollar Friday, compared with 6.9890 on Thursday.

HONG KONG DOLLAR: The US-pegged Hong Kong unit was trading at 7.7938 to the dollar from 7.793 a week earlier.

INDONESIAN RUPIAH: The rupiah ended the week's trading at 9,225/9,235 to the dollar compared to 9,190/9,195 to the dollar a week earlier.

PHILIPPINE PESO: The Philippines peso fell to 42.04 to the dollar on Friday afternoon from 41.91 on April 18.

SINGAPORE DOLLAR: The dollar was at 1.3588 Singapore dollars on Friday from 1.3516 the previous week.

SOUTH KOREAN WON: The won strengthened to 996.0 won per dollar Friday, compared with 1,000.7 won a week earlier, as the local stock market rose three percent over the past week.

However, the won's rise was capped by dollar buys led by oil refiners and other importers, dealers said.

TAIWAN DOLLAR: The Taiwan dollar fell 0.18 percent in the week to April 25 to close at 30.340 against the US dollar. The local currency closed at 30.284 a week ago.

THAI BAHT: The Thai baht fell slightly against the dollar this week as the US unit rose against some other regional currencies and local importers purchased dollars, dealers said.

The Thai baht closed Friday at 31.69-70 baht to one dollar compared to last week's close of 31.42-45.



Standard Chartered Bank has received the 'best employer of IBA graduates' award from The Institute of Business Administration Alumni Association (IBAAA). Finance Adviser Dr AB Mirza Md Azizul Islam handed over the award to Osman Morad, CEO of Standard Chartered Bangladesh, at the IBAAA Alumni Day 2008 held in the capital recently.



Farida Khanam, vice-chairman of Concord Group, cuts tape to inaugurate the 15-day Baishakhi Property Fair 1415 recently offering excellent opportunities for the company's prospective buyers. Managing director, directors and senior officials were present.

Currency

Following is yesterday's (April 27, 2008) forex rate statement by Standard Chartered Bank

Major currency exchange rates		Exchange rate of some currencies	
	BC Sell	TT Buy	
US dollar	69.10	68.10	
Euro	109.50	104.78	
Pound	139.51	134.36	
Australian dollar	65.71	62.58	
Japanese yen	0.68	0.65	
Swiss franc	11.52	66.08	
Swedish krona	11.51	10.59	
Canadian dollar	69.46	66.97	
Hong Kong dollar	8.88	8.73	
Singapore dollar	51.35	49.72	
UAE dirham	18.97	18.39	
Saudi riyal	18.57	18.01	
Danish kroner	15.27	13.55	
Kuwait dinar	256.69	253.07	

Per USD		BDT per	
			Currency
Indian rupee	40.07	1.71	
Pak rupee	64.17	1.07	
Lankan rupee	107.85	0.64	
Thai baht	31.71	2.16	
Malaysian ringgit	3.16	21.74	

USD forward rate against BDT		Buy	Sell
1M	68.33	69.33	
2M	68.58	69.81	
3M	68.85	69.77	
6M	69.40	71.26	

* All currencies are quoted against BDT
* Rates may vary based on nature of transaction
* The forward rates are indicative only and fixed

Local Market FX
Local Inter-bank FX market was subdued on Sunday as international market was closed for the weekend. There was ample liquidity in the market and demand for dollar was steady. The BDT remained almost unchanged against the USD.



Md Kamruzzaman, managing director of Greho Naksha Holdings Ltd, and Ramakanta Bhattacharjee, director (Marketing, Sales & IT) of HeidelbergCement Bangladesh Ltd, exchange documents after signing an agreement on behalf of their companies in Dhaka recently. Under the deal, Greho Naksha Holdings will exclusively use ScanCement of HeidelbergCement for its entire building construction works.

STOCK

TRADED ISSUES April 27, 2008

Company	FV/ML (Tk/No)	Price Closing	Price Chg (%)	Turnover Pre Day	Share	Price Closing	Price Chg (%)	Turnover Pre Day	Share	AGM (Tk/No)	(%)	Company	FV/ML (Tk/No)	Price Closing	Price Chg (%)	Turnover Pre Day	Share	Price Closing	Price Chg (%)	Turnover Pre Day	Share
BANK																					
AS Bank *	10005	3758.50	2.06	5885.75	85990	3781.75	2.19	5710.75	8160	04/06/07	2.02	Temajuddin Textile - Z	10010	59.25	9.77	54.00	1990	41.25	0.00	18.20	20
BB Bank *	10010	115.50	2.92	100.00	10000	116.50	0.87	100.00	10000	04/06/07	2.02	BEXTEN Ltd * A	10020	18.00	-0.55	18.00	514554	41.25	0.00	18.20	20
IBFC Bank *	10010	2977.00	2.00	2916.50	10000	2903.25	1.22	2926.25	2780	04/06/07	2.02	Box Spinning - Z	10030	49.00	-0.20	49.00	10000	41.25	0.00	18.20	20
Islamic Bank BD *	10020	2977.00	2.00	2916.50	10000	2903.25	1.22	2926.25	2780	04/06/07	2.02	Dynamite Textile - Z	10040	29.25	0.83	29.50	6000	35.50	14.31	35.00	0.00
Islamic Bank BR *	10020	2977.00	2.00	2916.50	10000	2903.25	1.22	2926.25	2780	04/06/07	2.02	Modern Knitting - Z	10050	61.25	0.00	61.25	10000	41.25	0.00	18.20	20
Public Bank *	10030	496.00	-0.46	488.00	10000	487.00	-0.61	482.00	10000	03/03/06	66.1	Modern Knitting - Z	10060	61.25	19.34	100.00	20180	29.00	19.05	2.00	0.00
United Bank *	10040	3022.50	3.50	2920.25	18831	3013.25	3.43	2913.25	2260	15/05/08	252.2	BD Dyvex - Z	10070	44.00	-2.22	44.00	240	18.00	23.33	18.20	0.00
United Bank *	10040	3022.50	3.50	2920.25	18831	3013.25	3.43	2913.25	2260	15/05/08	252.2	BD Dyvex - Z	10080	44.00	-2.22	44.00	240	18.00	23.33	18.20	0.00
United Bank *	10040	3022.50	3.50	2920.25	18831	3013.25	3.43	2913.25	2260	15/05/08	252.2	BD Dyvex - Z	10090	44.00	-2.22	44.00	240	18.00	23.33	18.20	0.00
United Bank *	10040	3022.50	3.50	2920.25	18831	3013.25	3.43	2913.25	2260	15/05/08	252.2	BD Dyvex - Z	10100	44.00	-2.22	44.00	240	18.00	23.33	18.20	0.00
United Bank *	10040	3022.50	3.50	2920.25	18831	3013.25	3.43	2913.25	2260	15/05/08	252.2	BD Dyvex - Z	10110	44.00	-2.22	44.00	240	18.00	23.33	18.20	0.00
United Bank *	10040	3022.50	3.50	2920.25	18831	3013.25	3.43	2913.25	2260	15/05/08	252.2	BD Dyvex - Z	10120	44.00	-2.22	44.00	240	18.00	23.33	18.20	0.00
United Bank *	10040	3022.50	3.50	2920.25	18831	3013.25	3.43	2913.25	2260	15/05/08	252.2	BD Dyvex - Z	10130	44.00	-2.22	44.00	240	18.00	23.33	18.20	0.00
United Bank *	10040	3022.50	3.50	2920.25	18831	3013.25	3.43	2913.25	2260	15/05/08	252.2	BD Dyvex - Z	10140	44.00	-2.22	44.00	240	18.00	23.33	18.20	0.00
United Bank *	10040	3022.50	3.50	2920.25	18831	3013.25	3.43	2913.25	2260	15/05/08	252.2	BD Dyvex - Z	10150	44.00	-2.22	44.00	240	18.00	23.33	18.20	0.00
United Bank *	10040	3022.50	3.50	2920.25	18831	3013.25	3.43	2913.25	2260	15/05/08	252.2	BD Dyvex - Z	10160	44.00	-2.22	44.00	240	18.00	23.33	18.20	0.00
United Bank *	10040	3022.50	3.50	2920.25	18831	3013.25	3.43	2913.25	2260	15/05/08	252.2	BD Dyvex - Z	10170	44.00	-2.22	44.00	240	18.00	23.33	18.20	0.00
United Bank *	10040	3022.50	3.50	2920.25	18831	3013.25	3.43	2913.25	2260	15/05/08	252.2	BD Dyvex - Z	10180	44.00	-2.22	44.00	240	18.00	23.33	18.20	0.00
United Bank *	10040	3022.50	3.50	2920.25	18831	3013.25	3.43	2913.25	2260	15/05/08	252.2	BD Dyvex - Z	10190	44.00	-2.22	44.00	240	18.00	23.33	18.20	0.00
United Bank *	10040	3022.50	3.50	2920.25	18831	3013.25	3.43	2913.25	2260	15/05/08	252.2	BD Dyvex - Z	10200	44.00	-2.22	44.00	240	18.00	23.33	18.20	0.00
United Bank *	10040	3022.50	3.50	2920.25	18831	3013.25	3.43	2913.25	2260	15/05/08	252.2	BD Dyvex - Z	10210	44.00	-2.22	44.00	240	18.00	23.33	18.20	0.00
United Bank *	10040	3022.50	3.50	2920.25	18831	3013.25	3.43	2913.25	2260	15/05/08	252.2	BD Dyvex - Z	10220	44.00	-2.22	44.00	240	18.00	23.33	18.20	0.00
United Bank *	10040	3022.50	3.50	2920.25	18831	3013.25	3.43	2913.25	2260	15/05/08	252.2	BD Dyvex - Z	10230	44.00	-2.22	44.00	240	18.00	23.33	18.20	0.00
United Bank *	10040	3022.50	3.50	2920.25	18831	3013.25	3.43	2913.25	2260	15/05/08	252.2	BD Dyvex - Z	10240	44.00	-2.22	44.00	240	18.00	23.33	18.20	0.00
United Bank *	10040	3022.50	3.50	2920.25	18831	3013.25	3.43	2913.25	2260	15/05/08	252.2	BD Dyvex - Z	10250	44.00	-2.22	44.00	240	18.00	23.33	18.20	0.00
United Bank *	10040	3022.50	3.50	2920.25	18831	3013.25	3.43	2913.25	2260	15/05/08	252.2	BD Dyvex - Z	10260	44.00	-2.22	44.00	240	18.00	23.33	18.20	0.00
United Bank *	10040	3022.50	3.50	2920.25	18831	3013.25	3.43	2913.25	2260	15/05/08	252.2	BD Dyvex - Z	10270	44.00	-2.22	44.00	240	18.00	23.33	18.20	0.00
United Bank *	10040	3022.50	3.50	2920.25	18831	3013.25	3.43	2913.25	2260	15/05/08	252.2	BD Dyvex - Z	10280	44.00	-2.22	44.00	240	18.00	23.33	18.20	0.00
United Bank *	10040	3022.50	3.50	2920.25	18831	3013.25	3.43	2913.25	2260	15/05/08	252.2	BD Dyvex - Z	10290	44.00	-2.22	44.00	240	18.00	23.33	18.20	0.00
United Bank *	10040	3022.50	3.50	2920.25	18831	3013.25	3.43	2913.25	2260	15/05/08	252.2	BD Dyvex - Z	10300	44.00	-2.22	44.00	240	18.00	23.33	18.20	0.00
United Bank *	10040	3022.50	3.50	2920.25	18831	3013.25	3.43	2913.25	2260	15/05/08	252.2	BD Dyvex - Z	10310	44.00	-2.22	44.00	240	18.00	23.33	18.20	0.00
United Bank *	10040	3022.50	3.50	2920.25	18831	3013.25	3.43	2913.25	2260	15/05/08	252.2	BD Dyvex - Z	10320	44.00	-2.22	44.00	240	18.00	23.33	18.20	0.00
United Bank *	10040	3022.50	3.50	2920.25	18831	3013.25	3.43	2913.25	2260	15/05/08	252.2	BD Dyvex - Z	10330	44.00	-2.22	44.00	240	18.00	23.33	18.20	0.00
United Bank *	10040	3022.50	3.50	2920.25	18831	3013.25	3.43	2913.25	2260	15/05/08	252.2	BD Dyvex - Z	10340	44.00	-2.22	44.00	240	18.00	23.33	18.20	0.00
United Bank *	10040	3022.50	3.50	2920.25	18831	3013.25	3.43	2913.25	2260	15/05/08	252.2	BD Dyvex - Z	10350	44.00	-2.22	44.00	240	18.00	23.33	18.20	0.00
United Bank *	10040	3022.50	3.50	2920.25	18831	3013.25	3.43	2913.25	2260	15/05/08	252.2	BD Dyvex - Z	10360	44.00	-2.22	44.00	240	18.00	23.33	18.20	0.00
United Bank *	10040	3022.50	3.50	2920.25	18831	3013.25	3.43	2913.25	2260	15/05/08	252.2	BD Dyvex - Z	10370	44.00	-2.22	44.00	240	18.00	23.33	18.20	0.00
United Bank *	10040	3022.50	3.50	2920.25	18831	3013.25	3.43	2913.25	2260	15/05/08	252.2	BD Dyvex - Z	10380	44.00	-2.22	44.00	240	18.00	23.33	18.20	0.00
United Bank *	10040	3022.50	3.50	2920.25	18831	3013.25	3.43	2913.25	2260	15/05/08	252.2	BD Dyvex - Z	10390	44.00	-2.22	44.00	240	18.00	23.33	18.20	0.00
United Bank *	10040	3022.50	3.50	2920.25	18831	3013.25	3.43	2913.25	2260	15/05/08	252.2	BD Dyvex - Z	10400	44.00	-2.22	44.00	240	18.00	23.33	18.20	0.00
United Bank *	10040	3022.50	3.50	2920.25	18831	3013.25	3.43	2913.25	2260	15/05/08	252.2	BD Dyvex - Z	10410	44.00	-2.22	44.00	240	18.00	23.33	18.20	0.00
United Bank *	10040	3022.50	3.50	2920.25	18831	3013.25	3.43	2913.25	2260	15/05/08	252.2	BD Dyvex - Z	10420	44.00	-2.22	44.00	240	18.00	23.33	18.20	0.00
United Bank *	10040	3022.50	3.50	2920.25	18831	3013.25	3.43	2913.25	2260	15/05/08	252.2	BD Dyvex - Z	10430	44.00	-2.22	44.00	240	18.00	23.33	18.20	0.00
United Bank *	10040	3022.50	3.50	2920.25	18831	3013.25	3.43	2913.25	2260	15/05/08	252.2	BD Dyvex - Z	10440	44.00	-2.22	44.00	240	18.00	23.33	18.20	0.00
United Bank *	10040	3022.50	3.50	2920.25	18831	3013.25	3.43	2913.25	2260	15/05/08	252.2	BD Dyvex - Z	10450	44.00	-2.22	44.00	240	18.00	23.33	18.20	0.00
United Bank *	10040	3022.50	3.50	2920.25	18831	3013.25	3.43	2913.25	2260	15/05/08	252.2	BD Dyvex - Z	10460	44.00	-2.22	44.00	240	18.00	23.33	18.20	0.00
United Bank *	10040	3022.50	3.50	2920.25	18831	3013.25	3.43	2913.25	2260	15/05/08	252.2	BD Dyvex - Z	10470	44.00	-2.22	44.00	240	18.00	23.33	18.20	0.00
United Bank *	10040	3022.50	3.50	2920.25	18831	3013.25	3.43	2913.25	2260	15/05/08	252.2	BD Dyvex - Z	10480	44.00	-2.22	44.00	240	18.00	23.33	18.20	0.00
United Bank *	10040	3022.50	3.50	2920.25	18831	3013.25	3.43	2913.25	2260	15/05/08	252.2	BD Dyvex - Z	10490	44.00	-2.22	44.00	240	18.00	23.33	18.20	0.00
United Bank *	10040	3022.50	3.50	2920.25	18831	3013.25	3.43	2913.25	2260	15/05/08	252.2	BD Dyvex - Z	10500	44.00	-2.22	44.00	240	18.00	23.33	18.20	0.00
United Bank *	10040	3022.50	3.50	2920.25	18831	3013.25	3.43	2913.25	2260	15/05/08	252.2	BD Dyvex - Z	10510	44.00	-2.22	44.00	240	18.00	23.33	18.20	0.00
United Bank *	10040	3022.50	3.50	2920.25	18831	3013.25	3.43	2913.25	2260	15/05/08	252.2	BD Dyvex - Z	10520	44.00	-2.22	44.00	240	18.00	23.33	18.20	0.00
United Bank *	10040	3022.50	3.50	2920.25	18831	3013.25	3.43	2913.25	2260	15/05/08	252.2	BD Dyvex - Z	10530	44.00	-2.22	44.00	240	18.00	23.33	18.20	0.00
United Bank *	10040	3022.50	3.50	2920.25	18831	3013.25	3.43	2913.25	2260	15/05/08	252.2	BD Dyvex - Z	10540	44.00	-2.22	44.00	240	18.00	23.33	18.20	